

REMARKS

In the non-final action of July 31, 2006, the Examiner examined claims 1-18, and, of those, rejected claims 1- 18. Claims 1-20 are currently pending, of which claims 1 and 13 are independent. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended, and claims 19 and 20 have been added. Support for these amendments and new claims may be found in the application at, for example, page 6, line 24 to page 7, line 5; page 9, lines 13-21; and FIG. 4. No new matter has been introduced. Applicant asks that all claims be allowed in view of the amendment to the claims and the following remarks.

Claims 1-18 have been rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,230,062 (Inaki). Applicant request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection because Inaki does not describe or suggest the subject matter of independent claims 1 and 13. The disclosure of Inaki, which is directed to very different software functionality than disclosed in the present application, does not include many of the limitations set forth in amended claim 1. For example, and as described more fully below, Inaki does not describe or suggest displaying a user input area within a computer user interface where the user input area corresponds to a data field having a specified number of characters, and adjusting the size of the user input area based on a size of characters included in the data field and the specified number of characters of the data field, and where the size of characters included in the data field includes the size of the input character, as recited in independent claims 1 and 13.

Amended claims 1 and 13 each recite displaying a user input area within a computer user interface. More particularly, claims 1 and 13 recite displaying the user input area that corresponds to a data field having a specified number of characters. The user input area has a size that visually indicates to a user that the user input area will accommodate therein visual representations of the specified number of characters, and, upon receipt of a user input specifying a character to be included in the data field, displaying within the user input area a visual representation of the input character in a proportional font. Claims 1 and 13 also recite adjusting the size of the user input area based on a size of characters included in the data field and the specified number of characters of the data field, where the size of characters included in the data

field includes a size of the input character. Claims 1 and 13 further recite displaying the adjusted user input area having a new size that visually indicates to the user that the user input area will accommodate therein visual representations of a remaining number of the specified number of characters of the data field.

In contrast, Inaki discloses techniques defining the size and type of a data field for a card image and field data processed by a data processing apparatus. See Inaki at col. 1, lines 7-12 and title. Inaki's techniques are designed to address the difficulty of visually grasping a field display area for fields on a card image and difficulties in defining fields for the card image display. See Inaki at col. 1, lines 14-38. Inaki discloses a data processing unit that includes a card generating unit for generating a card image or format. See Inaki at col. 5, lines 5-14. Inaki's card generating unit provides a function that enables a user to define the field name and type in the fields to which data are entered, and the unit also stores the card image data. See Inaki at col. 5, lines 15-28. Inaki's card generating unit further displays a generated card of a selected data file when the card is not newly generated. See Inaki at col. 5, lines 28-30.

More particularly, Inaki's card generating function enables determining a data type of a field to which data is to be input. See Inaki at col. 6, lines 53-62. Inaki provides examples of data types as characters, numeric, or date fields. See Inaki at col. 6, lines 53-62. In Inaki's example of defining a "telephone" field, a function key indicating the field is to be a character field is pressed, and a character data input area is indicated by the length of the cursor. See Inaki at col. 7, lines 7-15. Inaki's display screen also indicates at the bottom the capacity of the display area for characters of a particular size. See Inaki at col. 7, lines 15-23 and FIG. 5D (showing, in the bottom, right corner "HALF SIZE 30 CHARACTERS.") See also Inaki at col. 10, lines 24-39. In Inaki's telephone example, the character size of 30 is shown for "half-size characters." See Inaki at col. 7, lines 15-20. Inaki discloses that when the cursor size is set in full-size, the display screen at the bottom of the screen indicates "full-size 15 characters." See Inaki at col. 7, lines 20-23. Inaki also discloses that, by controlling the cursor, the size of the display area can be modified, and, more particularly, that "operating to move the cursor in the reverse direction, the display area can be decreased." See Inaki at col. 7, lines 13-25.

Inaki also provides additional description of defining field positions and types. See Inaki at col. 10, line 6 to col. 15, line 52. In this section, Inaki discloses, among other features, that a field definition can be set by setting the cursor size and that cursor sizes, for example, may be selected by function keys on a keyboard. See Inaki at col. 10, lines 10-13 and col. 11, lines 5-15. Inaki provides examples of cursor sizes as subscript, full size, laterally doubled full-size, longitudinally doubled half-size, longitudinally doubled full-size, among others. See Inaki at col. 7, lines 13-25. Inaki discloses that "when the cursor is moved by cursor keys SW2, the character data input area R is shown by the length of the cursor" and information as to the number of characters indicated by cursor is updated. See Inaki at col. 7, lines 13-25.

As such, Inaki discloses, in general, techniques for defining the type and size of a display area of a data field. More particularly, Inaki discloses function key selections that are used to select a character size for a cursor that can be manipulated to define the length of the display area of a data field, and, while the display area is being defined, an indication is provided of the number of characters that the display area can hold for the character size indicated by the cursor size.

However, Inaki does not describe or suggest adjusting the size of the user input area based on a size of characters included in the data field and *the specified number of characters of the data field to which the user input area corresponds*, where the size of characters included in the data field includes a size of the input character to be included in the data field, as recited in claims 1 and 13. Nor does Inaki describe or suggest displaying the adjusted user input area having a new size that visually indicates to the user that the user input area will accommodate therein *visual representations of a remaining number of the specified number of characters*.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 13 and their respective dependent claims 2-12 and 14-18.

New claims 19 and 20 each depend from independent claim 13. At least for the reason of that dependency and the reasons noted above with respect to independent claim 13, applicant submits that claims 19 and 20 are allowable.


Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and requests that the Examiner issue a notice of allowance.

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this reply should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this reply, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

No fee is believed due. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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